



## CRUSHED THE AGENT.

He intended Victim led him where a Human Voice was Usless.

"The toughest experience I ever had in my life," said a solicitor of life insurance, "was with an iron manufacturer in Troy. I had been informed that he was a hard customer, but a wealthy man and one who had carelessly neglected to provide himself with insurance, and so I resolved to tackle him. Upon entering his office and explaining the nature of my business I was surprised at his greeting. It was friendly, even cordial. 'Life insurance,' said he. 'Well, now, that's a subject that interests me. Come with me to the shop; we've got to go there, and you can tell me all about the superiority of your company over all others.' Then he took up his hat and bade me follow him. As we went out of the office I noticed a smile on the faces of all the clerks, and though I didn't understand it I smiled in return, for I thought possibly they knew my errand and were congratulating me on my success. The proprietor walked hurriedly and I after him, until at last he flung open a door. It was the machine shop. The din was terrible. A thousand hammers, I think, were all at work beating iron at once. Inevitably I put my hands to my ears. Looking at my man I saw his lips move, and towering my hands I just managed to catch his words, shouted above the deafening racket, 'Now, tell me all about it!' He smiled sardonically as he said this, and I could have murdered him. It was impossible to say a word, and so I went right out. It was a darn mean trick."

## A SWINGING AQUEDUCT.

One English Canal Carried Across Another on a Drawbridge.

The recently opened ship canal, which connects the city of Manchester, England, with the sea, is of commercial rather than engineering importance. There were few difficulties to be overcome in its construction, yet one of the novel features of the enterprise is so curious that it deserves passing notice. It is a very common occurrence for one railroad track to be carried over another, much less frequently we see one canal conducted across the line of another, but to have the intersections of two water routes provided with a drawbridge is still more unusual. This, however, was found the most satisfactory way of dealing with the problem presented where the route of Manchester's new highway to the Mersey ran against the old Bridgewater canal, leading southward from Wigan in Lancashire.

Just what reasons existed for not having a grade crossing do not appear, but it does appear that such a scheme was not deemed feasible, and hence the smaller channel was borne over the larger. But a fixed aqueduct would have interfered with the masts, if not the smokestacks, of big ships, and therefore, a swinging span like that of an ordinary drawbridge, was resorted to. Obviously, the stationary ends of the severed waterway needed to be, and they are, equipped with gates, which must be closed before the swinging span is opened. The latter structure is similarly furnished, so that it is possible to open the "draw" with a floating barge on either side.

**QUEER NESTS FOR DUCKS.**

Made of Branches and Hung on Poles in the Marshes.

Empress Eugenie seems to be playing the rôle of the fairy godmother, but it is to be feared that she cannot hold out very long at the present high rate of generosity. She has given a marriage portion of £40,000 to the Princess Eugenie, the second daughter of Prince Charles Bonaparte, the son of Prince de Talibrice Massimo, and now she has given another £6,000 to Princess Eugenie's sister, Princess Marie, the wife of M. Henri Gotta.—Exchange.

**Studying Their Duties.**

The Women's Political school of De Beaufort, Mesa county, Colo., was lately organized, with Miss Lizzie A. Walker and Miss M. F. Strock as the public school as president and secretary. The members, "some of them long time suffragists and some converted to their rights through their new duties," have begun the study of the United States constitution with a query box upon their immediate duties as citizens.—Denver Letter.

**Olive Schreiner Smiles.**

Miss Olive Schreiner, the authoress of "The Story of an African Farm," was recently married to Mr. Crimwright, a young colonist of forcible character, with advanced views on South African politics. This bride will be Olive Schreiner, for she has no intention of changing her name. They propose to live on a farm far up the country in the Karroo.—New York Journal.

**A Plain Protest.**

The following protest speaks for itself: "I, Ellen F. Adams, of 45 Oxford street, Cambridge, Mass., in casting my vote for school committee do hereby protest against the unjust discrimination by which, on account of my sex, I am barred from a voice in the choice of other municipal officers and from registering my convictions in favor of no license."

**The Queen of Whist.**

Miss Kate Irwin Wheelock, the famous whist player of Chicago, has received a new claque to distinction. She has played with Cavendish and has by him been dubbed "Queen of Whist." Such a title from such an authority certainly attests Miss Wheelock's efficiency.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

**A Parliamentary Club.**

The Woman's Parliamentary club of Hartford has a membership of 60 and meets twice a month. Its purpose is to afford the members parliamentary practice and to increase their knowledge of business methods and municipal affairs.—Hartford Correspondent.

The second Vassar graduate to receive from Yale the honor of the publication of her thesis at the expense of the university is Miss Laura J. Wylie of the class of '77. Her subject was "The Evolution of English Criticism From Dryden to Coleridge."

Under the new registration law in Colorado women do not have to tell their age when they register as voters. They must state that they are 21 years old or more, but beyond that they do not have to go.

The Wimondonghs society of Washington, which ran the words wife, mother, daughter and sister together for its title, drew the color line lately, but it has admitted colored members.

When you buy Quaker home made bread see that it has our registered trade mark (a shield) on it, and you will not be deceived.

—*Wm. & Co.*



## NEW MOURNING COSTUMES.

The figure on the right shows a long mourning gown of silk-warp hemstitch and courtland crepe with a narrow line of lace passementerie down the front. That on the left is of endor cloth and courtland crepe, with the under skirt crepe and the upper one endor. The sleeves and waist draperies are of crepe.

## Safe.

Standing by the kitchen range, in the light of the natural gas, she spurned him.

"Never," she insisted, "will I be thine!" The color flushed his face.

"This die!" he cried, and drew a gleaming pistol.

"Stay thy hand!" He paused.

"Grant me but one boon," the woman pleaded.

"It is granted."

"Do your worst!" She laughed mockingly, while he in his impotent rage cast for the nonce the fate that marked him for a police man.—Truth.

## A Change of Sentiment.

 "What did you bring your picture away from the dealer for?" "He had put it down in the cellar, and I didn't like it."

"Couldn't stand such abasement of art, eh?" and they both smiled.—Detroit Free Press.

## A Great Idea.

First Student—I've just noticed that I must move out today, for I haven't paid my rent for more than a year.

Second Student—Remarkable coincidence! That's just my case.

First Student—What do you say, then, to exchanging rooms?—Elegante Blattter.

## Deeply Interested.

Marmora—I noticed that you paid very close attention to the minister, Robbie. Were you interested, dear?

Robbie—Yes, sirie, I kept wondering how long it would be before he found out that his necktie was way above his collar.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

## Didn't Once Marry Him.

Briggs—Did Scott know? Sperately hid proposed to his cook and been rejected.

Grimes—Gracious, m'm. What did she reject him for?

Briggs—She said she didn't know where they could get another one.—Brooklyn Life.

## Art in Paint.

"What did you bring your picture away from the dealer for?"

"He had put it down in the cellar, and I didn't like it."

"Couldn't stand such abasement of art, eh?" and they both smiled.—Detroit Free Press.

## A Victim of the Habit.

Estelle—Charlie, dear, won't you give up tobacco for my sake?

Charles—I do every day already, Estelle, darling. You have no idea how many fellows strike me every day for a cigar.—Somerville Journal.

## Mistress and Maid.

"Did you tell those ladies that I was not at home?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"And what did they reply?"

"They said, 'Oh, how fortunate!'"—La Scapagnier.

## RAILROAD TIES.

Steel rails, it is said, average 130 tons per mile; iron, 145.

The first line of railroad in Norway was opened in 1853.

The Union Pacific railroad was begun in 1862 and the first train through-left Chicago for San Francisco on May 1, 1869.

The fastest time between New York and San Francisco was made by a special theatrical train in 1886—3 days, 7 hours, 39 minutes and 16 seconds.

An electric engine has been tried on the railway between Hayes and Paris. It was attached to a train of 12 carriages and attained a speed of 75 miles an hour.

J. B. Klinke, Prussian commissioner of railroads, who has been studying American railroad methods, is reported as saying that, while Germany surpasses this country in the construction of tracks, he finds America car equipment superior.

Vestinated trains have proved such a success in the prevention of serious results where accidents have occurred that these trains are much more popular even with railway men who did not at first think well of them, and a belief is expressed that the time is not far distant when accommodations as well as through trains of all leading roads will be vestibuled.

## SPRING NOVELTIES.

Platinum is holding its own.

Silver soap baskets for the bathtub are produced.

There are new designs in toast and muffin racks.

Italian and French Renaissance forms prevail in table silver.

Tabular vases of silver are brought out in various forms. The prettiest are like twin horns.

The newest standard for a Farina cologne bottle has spikelike forms resembling a head of wheat, which, attached to round cuplike base, hold the bottle.

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